

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: SOVIET INDUSTRY - APRIL

1. IN OTHERWISE ROUTINE PRAVDA COLUMN "DIARY OF ALL-UNION COMPETITION" MAY 12, FOLLOWING DATA ON SOVIET INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY DURING APRIL CAME TO LIGHT. GROSS INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GREW BY EIGHT PERCENT OVER THAT OF PREVIOUS APRIL (THUS EXCEEDING GROWTH IN OUTPUT OF 7.5 PERCENT FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 1975). GAS INDUSTRY AND MAIN ADMINISTRATION OF MICROBIOLOGICAL INDUSTRY LED SOVIET INDUSTRY WITH GROWTH INCREASES OF 19 PERCENT EACH OVER APRIL 1974, FOLLOWED BY INSTRUMENT-MAKING INDUSTRY WITH AN 18 PERCENT INCREASE IN PRODUCTION. CHEMICAL AND MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRIES SHOWED 11 PERCENT GROWTH, WHILE PETROLEUM REFINING AND PETROCHEMICAL, ELECTROTECHNICAL, MACHINEBUILDING FOR LIVESTOCK AND FEED PRODUCING, AND MEDICAL INDUSTRIES ALL HAD INCREASES IN OUTPUT OF TEN PERCENT OVER CORRESPONDING 1974 PERIOD.

2. IN VIEW OF "HOT WEATHER IN MANY REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY," ARTICLE WARNS SOVIET MINISTRIES PRODUCING IRRIGATION AND PUMPING EQUIPMENT TO PAY "PARTICULAR ATTENTION" TO ACHIEVING "TIMELY FULFILLMENT" OF ORDERS FROM AGRICULTURE AND TO FIND
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RESOURCES FOR "ADDITIONAL DELIVERIES."

3. IN FOOD AND DAIRY SECTORS, ARTICLE IS GENERALLY UPBEAT, MENTIONING IN PARTICULAR OVERFULFILLMENT IN MEAT DELIVERIES BY FARMERS IN TURKMENIYA, TADZHIKISTAN, AND VARIOUS RSFSR OBLASTS. AT SAME TIME "DECREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY" HAS TAKEN PLACE AT DAIRY FARMS IN KAZAKHSTAN AS WELLAS TAMBOV AND SARATOV OBLASTS.

4. COMMENT: APRIL GROWTH RATES MENTIONED IN PARA 1 ARE MORE OR LESS AT OR BELOW THOSE SET BY SAME INDUSTRIES DURING 1975 FIRST QUARTER. EXHORTATION TO IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT PRODUCERS FOR GREATER PRODUCTION IS ONE OF NUMEROUS SIGNS BEGINNING TO APPEAR IN SOVIET PRESS INDICATING OFFICIAL CONCERN OVER UNUSUALLY HOT AND DRY WEATHER NOW PREVALENT OVER LARGE SECTIONS OF EUROPEAN USSR AND CENTRAL ASIA. SOTESSEL

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